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# Appendices

## **SYNOPSIS OF *THE PICTURE OF DORIAN GRAY***

Basil, a painter, is finishing his new painting. It is a painting of a young man with a charming face. Meanwhile, Basil's guest, Lord Henry, is watching Basil's picture. Lord Henry wondered who this young lad was. However, Basil did not want to tell Lord Henry because Basil valued privacy. They also discussed plans to exhibit Basil's new painting. But Basil said he didn't want to flaunt it. The painting depicts too much of Basil's feelings that he doesn't want anyone else to see and know Basil's heart. In the end, Basil told the identity of the young man he painted, that is, Dorian Gray. Lord Henry was interested in this young man and wanted to make his acquaintance. But Basil would not allow it. Basil knew Lord Henry would be a bad influence on Dorian. However, luck was on Lord Henry's side. Dorian Gray visits Basil's house.

Dorian and Lord Henry finally met. From this meeting, Lord Henry began to influence Dorian. Lord Henry instilled new ideas in Dorian. The notion of enjoying youth and taking advantage of his physical beauty for those things that Dorian could only briefly enjoy. In a few years, Dorian would lose it all and lose his prime. Dorian is offended by Lord Henry's speech about the fleeting nature of youth and beauty. Dorian curses his painting because he fears it will one day serve as a reminder of the beauty he will have lost. Dorian is concerned that these, his most striking qualities, are vanishing day by day. In a moment of despair, he offers his soul in exchange for the painting's ability to carry the weight of his sin and wrinkle with age while allowing preserving his eternal youth. Following Dorian's outbursts, Lord Henry reiterates his wish to purchase the image, but Basil maintains that Dorian is the rightful owner.

Lord Henry gains more sway over Dorian next week. The young Dorian adopts the "new Hedonism" Lord Henry suggests leading a life devoted to seeking pleasure. Dorian develops feelings for Sibyl Vane, a young actress who works at a slum theater in London. Dorian enjoys her acting; she calls him "Prince Charming" and ignores her brother James Vane's advice that Dorian is not a good match for her. Sibyl is overcome by her feelings for Dorian and thinks she can no longer play the part, pondering how she can pretend to love on stage now that she has experienced it. Dorian brutally calls off his engagement to Sibyl because Dorian only loves Sibyl because of her acting prowess. After that, he notices that his face in Basil's image of him has altered. Dorian now sneers when Dorian gets home. He wants to apologize to Sibyl the following day out of fear that his wish for the painting to suffer the consequences of his actions has come true. That his sins would be depicted on the canvas. However, Lord Henry sends word that Sibyl committed suicide the same afternoon. She represented tragedy, and at Lord Henry's prodding, Dorian decided to look at her passing as a type of creative accomplishment and go on. Dorian, meanwhile, conceals his picture in a private upper room of his home so that only he can see it change.

Dorian receives a book from Lord Henry that details the evil deeds of a Frenchman in the nineteenth century. As Dorian descends further and further into a life of depravity and corruption, this book becomes his bible. He has no regard for morals or the repercussions of his acts, living a life committed to experiencing new feelings and experiences. There are 18 years. In respectable London social circles, where reports of his scandalous antics circulate, Dorian's reputation falls. Despite this, his peers still

accept him because he is still youthful and attractive. However, the painting's figure ages and becomes more repulsive. Basil Hallward visits Dorian's house on a gloomy, foggy night to confront him about the unfounded reports. Dorian eventually grants Basil a glimpse into his (Dorian's) soul after the two dispute. Dorian shows Basil his picture. Hallward begs Dorian to change after seeing his painting become a horrific portrait. Dorian kills Basil in a fit of wrath after claiming that it is too late for atonement.

Dorian uses the assistance of an ex-friend and doctor whom he has blackmailed to dispose of the body. The following evening, Dorian travels to an opium den where he meets James Vane, who is out to exact revenge for Sibyl's murder. Dorian flees to his estate in the countryside. He is entertaining visitors when he sees James Vane looking in through a window, which causes him to feel terrified and guilty. Dorian regains his sense of security when Vane is inadvertently shot and killed by a hunting party.

The picture now exposes his purported intention to repent for what it is because he decides to change his life but lacks the guts to acknowledge his faults. Dorian picks up the knife he used to stab Basil Hallward in a fit of rage and tries to slash the artwork. When there is a smash, his servants rush in to discover the uninjured painting of Dorian Gray as a handsome young man. The body of their master, an old man, who had a knife inserted into his heart and was severely scarred and wrinkled, is lying on the ground.

## **BIOGRAPHY OF OSCAR WILDE**

Oscar Wilde was a well-known author, playwright, and poet in late Victorian England. He spoke as a poet, an art critic, and a renowned advocate of aestheticism after earning his degree from Oxford University. His sole novel, *The Picture of Dorian Gray*, which was criticized as immoral by Victorian reviewers but is now regarded as one of his most eminent works, was released in 1891. A lot of Wilde's plays, notably his satirical comedies *Lady Windermere's Fan* (1892), *A Woman of No Importance* (1893), *An Ideal Husband* (1895), and his most well-known comedy *The Importance of Being Earnest* (1895), were warmly regarded as plays. Wilde was unconventional in both his literature and life, and in 1895, his liaison with a young man resulted in his imprisonment on suspicion of "gross immorality." After serving two years in prison, he was released, and three years later, at the age of 46, he passed away in poverty.

On October 16, 1854, Oscar Fingal O'Flahertie Wills Wilde was born in Dublin, Ireland. His father, William Wilde, was a renowned physician who served as the Irish censuses' medical advisor and received a knighthood for his efforts. To help the city's impoverished, William later created St. Mark's Ophthalmic Hospital, wholly out of his pocket. The Young Irelander Rebellion of 1848 was closely associated with Wilde's mother, Jane Francesca Elgee, a poet and accomplished linguist whose celebrated English translation of Pomeranian author Wilhelm Meinhold's *Sidonia the Sorceress* had a significant impact on her son's later writing.

Wilde was a brilliant student who loved to read. He discovered his passion for Greek and Roman studies while attending the Portora Royal School in Enniskillen. In addition to winning second place in drawing during his last year. He also earned the school's award for the top classics student each of his last two years. Wilde received the Royal School Scholarship after graduating in 1871, allowing him to enroll in Trinity College in Dublin. He won the college's Foundation Scholarship, its top undergraduate distinction, after finishing first in the school's classics examination at the end of his first year at Trinity in 1872.

As Trinity's top Greek student upon graduation in 1874, Wilde was awarded the Berkeley Gold Medal as well as the Demyship scholarship for additional study at Oxford's Magdalen College. Wilde maintained his high academic standards while studying at Oxford, earning first-class grades from his examiners in both classics and classical moderation. Wilde also made his first serious attempts at creative writing while attending Oxford. His poem "Ravenna," which was published in 1878, was awarded the Newdigate Prize for the best English poetic work produced by an undergraduate at Oxford.

After receiving his degree from Oxford, Wilde relocated to London and lived with his friend Frank Miles, a well-known portraitist among London's elite. He continued to concentrate on poetry there, and in 1881, he released his first collection, *Poems*. Despite the book's lackluster critical reception, it helped to establish Wilde as a promising new author. Wilde left for New York City the following year, in 1882, to



start an American lecture tour, for which he gave an astounding 140 talks in just nine months.

He managed to meet with some of the top academics and writers in America at the time, including Henry Longfellow, Oliver Wendell Holmes, and Walt Whitman, when he wasn't giving lectures. Wilde admired Whitman in particular. He later wrote to his hero, "There is no one in this huge broad world of America whom I love and honor so much."

After his tour of the United States was over, Wilde went back to his own country and started giving lectures there right away. This lecture tour lasted until the middle of 1884. A pioneering advocate of the aesthetic movement, which stressed the pursuit of beauty for its own sake rather than to advance any political or social stance, Wilde made his name through his lectures as well as his early poetry.

Constance Lloyd, a wealthy Englishwoman, and Wilde were wed on May 29, 1884. Cyril and Vyvyan, born in 1885 and 1886 respectively, were their two sons. A year after his wedding, Wilde was given the job of editor-in-chief of *Lady's World*, an English publication that had recently lost its appeal. During his two years as editor of *Lady's World*, Wilde expanded the publication's coverage to "deal with women's thoughts and feelings as well as their clothing. The *Lady's World*, according to Wilde, "could become the acknowledged organ for the expression of women's thoughts on all matters of literature, art, and contemporary life, while still being a magazine that men may enjoy reading."

Wilde entered a seven-year phase of intense production that started in 1888 when he was still the editor of *Lady's World*, during which he wrote practically all of his best literary masterpieces. *The Happy Prince and Other Tales*, a collection of children's tales, was published by Oscar Wilde in 1888, seven years after he finished *Poems*. Wilde released his first and only novel, *The Picture of Dorian Gray*, in 1891, along with *Intentions*, a collection of essays debating the principles of aestheticism. A gorgeous young man named Dorian Gray requests (and is granted) that his portrait age while he remains young and leads a life of sin and pleasure in the novel's cautionary story.

The book's seeming lack of morals angered critics at the time, even though it is today regarded as a brilliant and classic work. In the prologue to the book, which is regarded as one of the greatest testaments to aestheticism, Wilde strongly defended himself, stating that "vice and virtue are to the artist ingredients for an art" and that "an ethical compassion in an artist is an unpardonable mannerism of style."

The success and acclaim of Wilde's debut play, *Lady Windermere's Fan*, which debuted in February 1892, inspired him to make plays his main method of expression. The following few years saw Wilde create a number of outstanding plays—smart, sharp comedies of manners with dark, somber undertones. *A Woman of No Importance* (1893), *An Ideal Husband* (1895), and his most well-known play, *The Importance of Being Earnest* (1895), are among his most prominent pieces.

Amid his greatest literary triumph, Wilde started a relationship with Lord Alfred Douglas, a young man. The Marquis of Queensberry, Douglas's father, who had

learned of the relationship, dropped a calling card at Wilde's residence on February 18, 1895, addressed to him as "Oscar Wilde: Posing Somdomite," a misspelling of the word sodomite. Although Wilde was gay, his note infuriated him to the point where he sued Queensberry for libel. His life was devastated by choice.

When the trial started in March, Queensberry and his attorneys produced proof of Wilde's homosexuality, including explicit passages from his writings and his love letters to Douglas. This quickly led to the rejection of Wilde's libel case and his detention on suspicion of "gross indecency." On May 25, 1895, Wilde was found guilty and given a two-year prison term.

In 1897, Wilde was released from prison, physically and emotionally spent and destitute. He fled to France and lived in inexpensive motels and friends' apartments while there, spending a brief period with Douglas. The only major piece of writing by Wilde during these final years was "The Ballad of Reading Gaol," a poem he finished in 1898 on his experiences in prison.

At the age of 46, Wilde passed away from meningitis on November 30, 1900. More than a century after his passing, Wilde's personal life—his vivacious personality, brilliant wit, and infamous imprisonment for homosexuality—remains better known than his literary achievements. Nevertheless, his plays *The Importance of Being Earnest* and *The Picture of Dorian Gray* are among the greatest literary works of the late Victorian era and are praised for their wit, imagination, and undeniable beauty.

